



## Achieving Environmental Sustainability

### Status:

In Progress

### IWR Contact:

Richard Cole ([Richard.A.Cole@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.A.Cole@usace.army.mil))

### Purpose:

While the Environmental Operating Principles establish a goal to "strive to achieve environmental sustainability," it is not so clear how it is to be implemented for Civil Works. This study will examine the following issues: -No framework exists for organizing planning and policy issues analyses that support development of sustainability concepts, environmental conditions and trends analytical approaches to facilitating achievement of environmental sustainability, and performance-based budget prioritization methods. -No single, widely accepted indicator of environmental benefit has been developed that can clearly point the way to environmental sustainability for the Civil Works program. Many different measures often environmentally benefit are used instead leaving no practical way to account for achievement progress. -No explicit connection has been drawn between environmental sustainability and the Federal planning objective for Civil Works through the concept of National Ecosystem Restoration. -No inventory of Civil Works contribution to unsustainable environmental conditions or vision of a sustainable state has been completed (although an analysis for contributions to decline in freshwater biodiversity is approaching completion). -These same deficiencies complicate Civil Works program response to requests by Congress and OMB for defensible prioritization of ecosystem restoration project construction.

### Objective:

### Benefits:

### Progress:

### Products:

### Related Links:

**Team:**

Richard Cole poc

**Partners:**